

Keyser's 'Bird-dom.'*—Despite its rather unprepossessing title, 'Bird-dom' proves to be a collection of twenty-six ornithological essays possessing much attractiveness as a series of popular sketches of bird life, most of which have previously appeared in various magazines. The writer gives his experiences in the field, in the hope of awakening in others an appreciation of nature. "If the hearts of the young," says our author, "could be stirred to a love of nature, and their minds aroused to study her, much would be done toward solving some of the perplexing social problems of the day." The titles of the essays, as 'The Alert Eye,' 'A Lesson in Bird Study,' 'Difficulties of Bird Study,' 'First Meetings,' 'Birds on the Wing,' 'My Woodland,' 'Lyrist of a Suburb,' etc., suggest to some degree the character of the book, in which the writer tells how he learned to recognize birds, relating his methods, his successes and his failures, and their causes. A healthful spirit, unlimited enthusiasm, and an intense love of birds pervades Mr. Keyser's little book, which is interspersed with many useful hints to those who would have a 'speaking acquaintance' with the feathered tenants of field and wood. While appreciating the need of specimens on the part of specialists, he disapproves of the killing of birds by amateurs, and offers this good advice: "So I advise that the money spent for guns and cartridges be spent in visiting some good college, or a large city, where an extensive collection of mounted birds may be studied at leisure. In that way you will be able to clear up ornithological points without resort to bloodshed." He has evidently become a proficient field ornithologist without destroying many birds, and writes delightfully and in an original vein of many of his favorite bird friends. The book is based apparently on observations made mainly in northeastern Ohio, and a Kirtland's Warbler is one of the author's much prized discoveries.—J. A. A.

Scott B. Wilson's *Aves Hawaiienses*.† — The progress of ornithology of late years is well exemplified by the work before us. Twenty years ago a small octavo pamphlet held all we knew about the birds of one of the most interesting and peculiar zoögeographical provinces; while today it requires a handsome quarto volume with numerous colored plates to fully represent our knowledge of the subject. Twenty years ago the number of species known to inhabit the Hawaiian Islands was considered to be about forty by the best authority (Sclater, *Ibis*, 1871, p. 361); today the number is scarcely less than seventy; and the most astonishing fact is that this increase of our knowledge of one of the most accessible and most civilized archipelagoes in the Pacific Ocean has taken place during

* Bird-dom | By | Leander Keyser | [Motto=6 lines, from Lowell] Boston | D. Lothrop Company | Washington Street opposite Bromfield. No date. 1891, 12mo, pp. 226.

† *Aves Hawaiienses*.—The Birds of the Sandwich Islands. By Scott B. Wilson, F.Z.S. Assisted by A. H. Evans, M.A., F.Z.S. London, R. H. Porter. Part i. Dec. 1890; part ii, Sept. 1891.

the last five years. To Mr. Scott B. Wilson, who spent eighteen months on the islands in order to study their ornithology, much credit is due for this increase, and it is with great pleasure that we extend our welcome to the work which he is now publishing, and we wish specially to call the attention of our American ornithologists to it, as from the situation of the Hawaiian Archipelago in relation to our own continent we ought to take more interest in its avifauna than has been done hitherto.

The work is uniform in appearance with most of the more ambitious ornithological monographs which have been published in England of late years, and is issued in five parts, two of which have already been published. These two parts treat of 18 species, and are accompanied by 20 plates, some of them representing species now extinct or nearly so. The second part contains a very valuable and interesting treatise by Dr. Hans Gadow 'On the Structure of Certain Hawaiian Birds with Reference to their Systematic Position,' to the illustration of which three of the plates are devoted. Many unexpected conclusions are the result of his investigation, and the ornithological public is under great obligations to Mr. Scott Wilson for not having spared any expense in order to have this side of the ornithology of the group as well taken care of as that devoted to the outside of the birds alone. For details and information we refer the reader to the book itself, and we advise all who can afford it to subscribe for it. The author has had heavy expenses in order to bring it out, and the work is well worth encouragement.

For the present we abstain from any remarks about various points on which we might disagree with the author. We prefer to wait until the work is finished, and then shall be glad to offer such remarks as might have a bearing on any special point. — L. S.

MacFarlane's Notes on Arctic Birds.*—From 1861 to 1866 Mr. MacFarlane had exceptional opportunities to study the birds breeding in the region lying between the lower Mackenzie River and Franklin Bay and southward to the sixty-seventh parallel, and especially in the neighborhood of Fort Anderson (lat. 68° 30', long. 128°). The good use he made of his time has been long attested by the generous collections he sent to the Smithsonian Institution.

In the present paper,—a revised edition of one published two years ago in the Transactions of the Historical and Scientific Society of Manitoba, based on the author's memoranda made during these years,—he gives the results of his experience of the breeding habits of about a hundred and thirty species, especially of their nests and eggs. It would be difficult to overestimate the interest and importance of these notes, relating, as they do, to a region so remote and so little known. The only regret they inspire is that matter of such value was not given to the public many years ago.—C. F. B.

* Notes on and List of Birds and Eggs collected in Arctic America, 1861-1866. By R. MacFarlane, [etc.]. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., Vol. XIV, 1891, pp. 413-446.